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# THTR 107A.05: Theatre Production I - Costume Construction

Paula Niccum

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [paula.niccum@umontana.edu](mailto:paula.niccum@umontana.edu)

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Fall Semester 2018  
Theatre 107A  
Costume Shop PARTV 40  
Instructor  
Phone (406) 243-5271  
Office hours  
Final exam times:

University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance  
Theatre Production 1: Construction Crew: Costumes, 3 cr.  
Section 5 T-Th 2-5:30  
Paula Niccum Costume Shop Supervisor  
[paula.niccum@umontana.edu](mailto:paula.niccum@umontana.edu)  
12:30-1:30 W- Th or by appointment  
Section 02 M-W 1:10-3:10 Tuesday, Dec 11  
Section 05 T-Th. 3:20-5:20 Tuesday, Dec 11

This class meets for 3 ½ hours twice a week, with a 10 minute break at 3:30. Duties include costume construction and alteration, costume stock pulling, re-stocking and organizing, shop organization and cleaning. There is no textbook and no homework. **You will be graded entirely on your performance in class.**

### **Attendance**

***It is essential that you have good attendance in this class.*** Show up on time, and don't leave early. You will learn what goes into costuming a show by actively participating in the shop. All students need to notify the instructor if leaving early or arriving late. If you are going to miss class, you **must** notify the instructor **by email** or you may not be allowed to make up hours. If you wish to make up hours, you will need to arrange a time with the instructor- there are no drop in make-up hours. If class ends early students will be dismissed with the full 3 ½ hours credited to them. Working additional hours can improve your grade. Weekend work calls will be announced as the need arises. Additional make up hours will be announced as they become available.

**Communication-** If you're not sure of how to do something or need a job to do, ask the shop supervisor, costuming professor or shop staff. There are no stupid questions, only unnecessary mistakes. If no one is able to help you right away, check the list of tasks posted on the door and see what needs to be done.

**Quality of Time-** Be conscientious in your use of shop time. Do you focus on the assigned tasks, or do you waste time chatting, taking extra breaks or generating distractions? Costume construction is meticulous work and requires concentration. Noise makes it difficult to concentrate, and is *especially disrespectful during fittings*. ***Being noisy can affect your grade.***

**Quality of Work-** You are asked to do the best you can, nothing more or less. Work will be assigned according to the level of your skills. As skills improve, you will be challenged further. Are you satisfied with your work? Is it up to the standard set by the shop manager or other costume faculty? Can you maintain a positive attitude when told something needs to be redone? Do you rise to meet the challenge?

**Attitude-** No job is too small. If you feel you cannot complete a job successfully, speak with the shop manager. Honesty is appreciated. It is important that you freely contribute your skills, knowledge and abilities. Theatre is a team sport, and it takes all of us to make a production successful.

**Outcomes-** Each student should leave this class with a hand and machine sewing skill set that applies to the costume shop. You will complete a sample project that will provide the opportunity to try many basic skills. This will be used to evaluate which jobs to assign to you. Do your best, and you will have your best shop experience. You should also leave with an understanding of the operations of the costume shop and the many different tasks that are required to put a show on stage.

**For information on grading and shop policies please check Moodle for your section of the class.**

**Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students/default.php>.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.

NOTE: Locker rentals are available for any student. The School of Theatre & Dance recommends that students do not leave personal belongings unattended in the dressing rooms, hallways, dance studios, or theatres as thefts frequently occur. Lockers may be rented for \$10/one semester or \$15/two semesters through Administrative Associate III Erin McDaniel ([erin.mcdaniel@umontana.edu](mailto:erin.mcdaniel@umontana.edu); PARTV 196).

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <https://www.umt.edu/dss/>.